

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 9, 10 and 12 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23 and 24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A metal-containing composition substantially comprising
 - (i) at least one water soluble metal compound which forms metal ions when dissolved in water which consists of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of :
zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium, vanadium and aluminum compounds,
 - (ii) at least one metal ion ~~modified as herein defined~~ binding, complexing or sequestering agent other than chelate or glutamate selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate and ammonium citrate,
 - (iii) at least one acid selected from the group consisting of sulphuric, hydrochloric, phosphoric and citric acids, and
 - (iv) watersaid composition having a pH of less than ~~6~~ 3 and an electrolytic potential in excess of ~~40~~ 50 millivolts.
2. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said metallic element is at least one or more of selected from the group consisting of the following mineral metals: copper, magnesium, selenium, iron and zinc.
3. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 which essentially consists of (i) - (iv) as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 which consists of (i) - (iv) as defined in claim 1 apart from any unavoidable impurities.

5. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein (i) is an inorganic salt of at least one selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium or vanadium.

6. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 5 in which said salt (i) is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of sulphate, chloride ~~or~~ and nitrate.

7. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 5 in which said salt (i) is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of a zinc, magnesium, copper, iron ~~or~~ and selenium salts.

8. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 7 in which (i) is a sulphate selected from the group consisting of zinc sulphate, magnesium sulphate, iron sulphate ~~or~~ and copper sulphate.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 1 wherein (ii) is ammonium sulphate.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein (iii) is concentrated sulphuric or hydrochloric acid.

14. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which (iv) consists essentially of distilled water or entirely of distilled water apart from any unavoidable impurities.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the pH value is ~~less than 5, preferably less than 4, more preferably less than 3, most preferably less than 2.5.~~

16. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 in which the pH value is 2 or less such as in the range of 1 to 2.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the electrolytic potential is ~~in excess of 20 millivolts, preferably in excess of 50 millivolts and more preferably~~ in excess of 100 millivolts.

18. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 17 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 200 millivolts.

19. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 18 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 300 millivolts and preferably at least 340 millivolts.

20. (Original) A composition as claimed in claim 19 in which the electrolytic potential is in the range of 340 to 400 millivolts.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of making a composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising dissolving (i) as defined in claim 1 in distilled water, adding (ii) as defined in claim 1 and mixing or allowing to dissolve, then adding (iii) as defined in claim 1 whilst simultaneously monitoring the pH and electrolytic potential of the composition until a required value of each measurement is obtained.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21 in which (i) is as defined in claim 5.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 in which (ii) is ~~defined in claim 11~~ ammonium sulphate.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein (iii) is ~~as defined in claim 12~~ concentrated sulphuric or hydrochloric acid.

25. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 as a medicament for treating or preventing a pathogenic disease or disorder.

26. (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for treating or preventing a pathogenic disease or disorder.

27. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 as an antimicrobial, antiviral, anti-retrovirus, or antifungal formulation.

28. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobial, antiviral, antiretrovirus or antifungal formulation comprising a composition as claimed in claim 1 in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient therefor.

29. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 for the treatment of water, or predominantly water-containing material.

30. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 for the treatment of sewage, industrial or municipal wastes.

31. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 for the treatment of foodstuffs as a disinfectant or bactericide, particularly copper containing such compositions.

32. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 for the preservation of plants, flowers, trees or shrubs.

33. (Previously Presented) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 1 in the treatment of a metal for coating, sealing, plating or otherwise forming an anti-corrosive layer upon a metallic substrate.

34. (New) Use of a composition as claimed in claim 30 wherein the composition contains one or more of copper, nickel, titanium or vanadium.